

REMARKS

The final Office action of 11 January 2007 (Paper No. 20070108) has been carefully considered.

Claims 27 and 34 are being canceled without prejudice of disclaimer, and claims 21, 28 and 30 are being amended. Thus, claims 21-26, 28-33, 35 and 36 are pending in the application.

In paragraph 3 of the final Office action, the Examiner stated that claims 22 thru 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 for alleged unpatentability over Cyr, U.S. Patent No. 6,223,055 in view of Bedingfield *et al.*, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0110465. However, in paragraph 4 of the final Office action, the Examiner stated that claims 27 and 34 were objected to for dependency upon a rejected base claim, but stated that those claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since no specific grounds for rejection of dependent claims 27 and 34 were stated in paragraph 3 of the final Office action, and since paragraph 4 of the final Office action indicated allowability of dependent claims 27 and 34, it is presumed that paragraph 3 of the final Office action should have stated that claims 21-26, 28-33, 35 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103. For the reasons stated below, it is submitted that the invention recited in the claims, as now amended, is distinguishable from the prior art cited by the Examiner so as

to preclude rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Independent claims 21 and 30 are being amended to include the recitations of allowable dependent claims 27 and 34, respectively. Dependent claim 28 is being amended merely for consistency with amended independent claim 21. Therefore, independent claims 21 and 30 and associated dependent claims 22-26, 28, 29, 31-33, 35 and 36 should now be in condition for allowance.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the claims of this application are in condition for allowance, and early issuance thereof is solicited. Should any questions remain unresolved, the Examiner is requested to telephone Applicant's attorney.

No fee is incurred by this Amendment After Final.

Respectfully submitted,



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